

**Raised Bill NO. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SEVERE NEED SCHOOL FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANT PROGRAM.**  
2.23.11

To the Education Committee:

I am Eileen Faustich, Director of Food Services in the Milford Public Schools and President of the School Nutrition Association of CT. SNACT is a non-profit organization made up of over 500 food service professionals in 94 child nutrition programs across our state and an affiliate of the School Nutrition Association, our national organization in Washington D.C.

I am here today to testify in favor of Raised Bill NO. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SEVERE NEED SCHOOL FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANT PROGRAM.

This bill would change the definition of the severe need school from 40% participation of free and reduced students at lunch to 20%. This change will provide needed funding to offset the cost of serving breakfast to students. I represent a school district with 17% Free and Reduced. I have 3 schools that have 30% free and reduced eligibility but do not qualify for the additional funding for breakfast. Although this change does not seem significant, I can tell you that it can make a difference in the life of a child and the experience they have at school. We use this money for the purchase of equipment, food and food service staff to prepare and serve healthy meals to students.

Children benefit because they:

- Have higher test scores, work faster, and make fewer errors and are more creative
- Are less likely to be sent to the principal or visit the school nurse
- Are better able to concentrate on learning
- Are more cooperative and get along better with classmates
- Are healthier and have improved attendance
- Eat more fruits, drink more milk and consume a wider variety of foods

Teachers benefit:

- Behavior improves
- Academic success improves
- Attention increases
- Attendance increases
- Test scores increase
- Discipline problems decrease

According to the Teachers Perceptions of the School Breakfast Program, End Hunger CT! 2003, "90 percent of CT teachers surveyed indicate that the School Breakfast Program is a positive influence on the school day."

On behalf of the children of CT and the food services directors throughout CT, I ask you to support Raised Bill NO. 932 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SEVERE NEED SCHOOL FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANT PROGRAM. Thank you for your time and attention.